

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Statement FCC Forum on WWOR-TV License Renewal In NJ

What is the LWVNJ?

We are a non-partisan organization, which encourages the active and informed participation of citizens in government. We believe that good government depends on an informed and effective electorate, which is why I am here today. In order to become informed, we citizens have the right to information regarding issues facing us. We have the right to be informed about the views of candidates, among whom we must choose in an election, on those issues. WWOR-TV is not covering the important issues facing state and local citizens.

What is unique about NJ?

We are a large, urban state squeezed between two media markets (that is, NY and Philadelphia). Our citizens are diverse, well educated and deserve better than what we are receiving from WWOR-TV.

How are we being served by WWOR-TV?

I've brought last week's TV schedule to share with you in order to answer that question. If you read this schedule (which I would like to leave with you), and look at some of the programs, you will find:

- There are 35 hours of Infomercials.
- The nightly news show, My 9 News shows sensational stories mostly of crime.
- Most of the remainder of the schedule consists of filmed entertainment leftovers from the Channel 5 inventory.
- On Sunday at noon, **there is** an hour of public affairs shows.

What is missing?

- When are important national issues presented (that is, global warming, health care, the Iraqi war)?
- What about NJ issues (for example, the new school funding formula, property tax reform, political corruption)?
- Where are the children's shows?
- Where is NJ's diversity visible?
- Where are the NJ cultural institutions (including the NJ Symphony, NJPAC, the NJ Shakespeare Theater, the MacCarter Theater)?

Should the WWOR-TV license be renewed?

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The existing licensee was granted the license with a requirement to operate in NJ for the benefit of the people of the state. Before you give a valuable public asset to the current licensee again, please consider the needs of the citizens and voters of NJ.

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